

INTEGRATING VARIOUS TRANSPORTATION MASTER PLANS

ASHEVILLE CITY COUNCIL PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE APRIL 20, 2010 – 3:00 PM

Problem Statement:

The City of Asheville has a total of about 16 approved master plans that at least touch the transportation infrastructure. Given our limited resources, how do we make sure that the top priorities are being addressed while making sure that all of the appropriate plans are being considered?

Solution:

- To produce a realistic 5-year Transportation CIP Action Plan that would begin during FY 2011-12.
- The 5-year Transportation CIP Action Plan will be based on criteria and methodology derived from the FY 2010-11 City Council's Strategic Plan. It will also incorporate, where appropriate, the six livability principles from the HUD-EPA-DOT partnership for sustainable communities. The six principles include the following:
 1. Providing more transportation choices
 2. Promoting equitable, affordable housing
 3. Enhancing economic competitiveness
 4. Supporting existing communities
 5. Coordinating and leveraging Federal policies and investment
 6. Valuing communities and neighborhoods
- City staff is recommending that other infrastructure, including water, sewer, and stormwater, be included in the action plan since these utilities are typically installed within a street's right-of-way and efficiencies can be achieved by planning, designing, and installing these items during the same construction activity.

ACTION STEPS:

- A City staff committee has been formed that includes Cathy Ball, Ken Putnam, Roderick Simmons, Jonathan Feldman, Steve Shoaf, Al Kopf, Nick Harvey, Greg Shuler, and Jeff Staudinger. Sasha Vrtunski has been hired part time to provide staff support. The committee is beginning to meet on a bi-weekly basis.
- Develop the criteria and methodology.

- Develop the appropriate GIS data layers for all approved master plans (hire a part time technician).
- Test the criteria and methodology on a sampling of proposed projects.
- Select the proposed projects and prepare appropriate documentation including cost estimates.
- Place the proposed projects into the 5-year Transportation CIP Action Plan including design time and right-of-way acquisition.
- Conduct a public hearing process for the draft document.
- City Council approval during June 2011.